

CLAIMS

1 1. A method of launching a selected application on a computer, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 accessing a registry to determine which applications are installed and
4 where each application is installed;

5 creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file specifying the appli-
6 cations that are installed;

7 displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can select any one
8 of the applications that is installed as a selected application to launch; and

9 if the user selects an application as the selected application, determin-
10 ing the location of the selected application from tags in the HTML file and
11 launching the selected application without allowing the browser to navigate to
12 the application.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the HTML file lists applications that are
2 known but not installed and the file is displayed in the displaying step so as to show
3 applications that are known but not installed with a specific visual attribute.

1 3. A computer program product for launching a selected application on a
2 computer, the computer program product including a computer program comprising:

3 instructions for accessing a registry to determine which applications are
4 installed and where each application is installed;

5 instructions for creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file
6 specifying the applications that are installed;

7 instructions for displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can
8 select any one of the applications that is installed as a selected application to
9 launch; and

10 instructions for determining if and when a user has selected an application
11 as the selected application, and determining the location of the selected appli-
12 cation from tags in the HTML file and launching the selected application with-
13 out allowing the browser to navigate to the selected application.

1 4. The computer program product of claim 3 wherein the HTML file lists appli-
2 cations that are known but not installed and the file is displayed by the instructions for
3 displaying so as to show applications that are known but not installed with a specific
4 visual attribute.

1 5. Apparatus for launching a selected application on a computer, the appara-
2 tus comprising:

3 means for accessing a registry to determine which applications are in-
4 stalled and where each application is installed;

means for creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file specifying the applications that are installed;

means for displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can select any one of the applications that is installed as a selected application to launch; and

means for determining if and when a user has selected an application as the selected application, and determining the location of the selected application from tags in the HTML file and launching the selected application without allowing the browser to navigate to the application.

6. A programmed computer system, the programmed computer system operable to launch a selected application on a computer by performing the steps of:

accessing a registry to determine which applications are installed and where each application is installed;

creating a hypertext markup language (HTML) file specifying the applications that are installed;

displaying the HTML file in a browser so that a user can select any one of the applications that is installed as a selected application to launch; and

if the user selects an application as the selected application, determining the location of the selected application from tags in the HTML file and launching the selected application without allowing the browser to navigate to the application.

- [illegible]